



*Story and graphic illustrations
by Justin Ward*

Five new Army Lodging facilities are currently being designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, making for the biggest undertaking of its kind in Europe.

Dorothy Richards, the program manager of the facilities team, has been working with representatives from MWR's Army Lodging office and the Army Community and Family Support Center (CFSC), now called Family and Morale,

Successful Army lodging program in progress

Welfare, and Recreation (FMWR), for more than a year on finalizing locations and size requirements of the new facilities.

In total, the five projects amount to more than \$112 million and account for 639 new hotel rooms, located throughout the European theater.

"This is the largest lodging push that I've witnessed," said Richards, who has been involved in non-appropriated funds projects like these since she arrived at the District in 2002.

The lodging push comes as a result of the issuance of the Army's restationing plan, which details a final blueprint for where U.S. forces will be stationed in Europe. The results of that study show the military's forces amassing in several existing military facilities, including Chievres, Wiesbaden, Stuttgart, Ansbach, and Grafenwöhr.

Through the course of discussions following the restationing plan's issuance, Richards' team, run by program

manager Steven Daniels, learned that the existing lodging facilities at some of these "enduring installations" were deemed inadequate to meet the predicted future needs of the installation. Consequently, new lodging facilities were ordered at each of the above-mentioned sites – and the resulting requests for design and engineering support came to the District.

"We're excited to get the work," said Richards. "We're an engineering and construction business; that's what we do. This is big for the Army and big for the District."

Normally, requests for new Army Lodging facilities are few and far between, said Chris Parry, a lodging project manager. So, to appropriately respond to the surge of work, Parry said his office decided to "stand up a team and dedicate resources to it from that perspective – work it programmatically, rather than individually."



That team, composed of Parry and Patrick Roybal, a lodging project manager, was able to think ahead and pioneer a new way of standardizing designs in Europe, said Richards. The foresight helped them confront the potential design and redesign issues before they even emerged, she said. "Chris and Patrick are both doing a great job as PMs. They're very conscientious and they know the status of the projects. It makes for a good project delivery team."

In the past, because requests for new Army lodging facilities were infrequent, the room design in each new facility could be handled uniquely, without much regard for precedents. However, the freedom of design often led to costly last-minute modifications, ranging from changing the type of ceiling fan to repositioning internal walls.

With five new facilities budding, the District's team knew that the simplest solution would be to standardize the rooms, effectively making puzzle-piece modules that could be placed into the hotel's blueprints.

"As long as they keep the integrity of what the room size and layout is, they can almost orient it anywhere and in anyway to make it fit the architecture," said Roybal. "So, in a way it sort of simplifies for

Wiesbaden Lodge



UP CLOSE:

Cost: \$32M

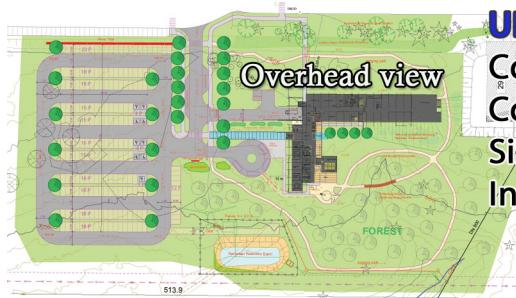
Construction award: summer 2007

Size: 164 units

Interesting fact: Ultra-modern design



Stuttgart Lodge



UP CLOSE:

Cost: \$34M

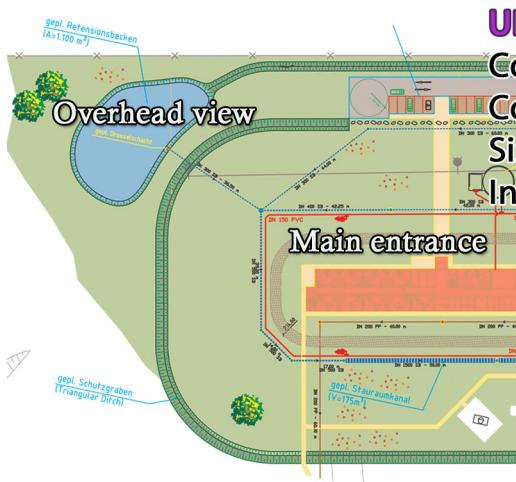
Construction award: fall 2008

Size: 218 units

Interesting fact: Seven stories



Ansbach Lodge



UP CLOSE:

Cost: \$7.5M

Construction award: fall 2008

Size: 26 units

Interesting fact: Bavarian design

